

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 312459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. NATO: BELGIANS CANNOT AFFORD AWACS

A SENIOR BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBASSY  
BRUSSELS THAT BELGIUM SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD THE AIRBORNE  
WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS) UNLESS IT CUTS OTHER  
DEFENSE SYSTEMS. HE ADDED THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT:

--IS NOT CONVINCED THAT AWACS IS ESSENTIAL;

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--PREFERS TO SPEND AVAILABLE FUNDS ON A WEAPONS  
SYSTEM RATHER THAN ANOTHER CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE  
SYSTEM;

--CONSIDERS AWACS TO BE STRICTLY AN AMERICAN AFFAIR

FROM WHICH BELGIAN INDUSTRY WILL DERIVE LITTLE OR NO ECONOMIC BENEFIT; AND

--IS BECOMING RESENTFUL OF USG "ARM-TWISTING" IN THIS MATTER.

THE OFFICIAL NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS COMMENTS DID NOT

MEAN BELGIUM WILL ULTIMATELY REFUSE TO JOIN IN AWACS.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) BRUSSELS 12759, 12/28.

2. FUKUDA TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN JAPANESE ECONOMY

IN ANALYZING THE NEW FUKUDA CABINET, EMBASSY TOKYO CONCLUDES THAT WHILE ITS ECONOMIC MINISTERS ARE WELL QUALIFIED, THEIR LACK OF POLITICAL STATURE WILL MAKE THEM DEPENDENT ON FUKUDA AND THE BUREAUCRACY. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY, FUKUDA:

--WILL SERVE IN A DUAL ROLE AS PRIME MINISTER AND ECONOMIC OVERSEER, HAMPERED ONLY BY THE UNWIELDY JAPANESE CONSENSUS SYSTEM OF DECISION MAKING; AND

--WILL ATTEMPT TO STIMULATE GROWTH DESPITE THE RISK OF INFLATION, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZES THAT EXTREMELY HIGH GROWTH RATES ARE NO LONGER SUSTAINABLE.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES FUKUDA HAS AN INTERNATIONALIST OUTLOOK, AND NOTES THAT HE HAS CALLED FOR AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. (CON-  
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FIDENTIAL) TOKYO 18903, 12/28.

3. ANDREOTTI OPENING DOOR TO ALL-PARTY CONSULTATIONS

IN A DECEMBER 26 RADIO INTERVIEW, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI SAID "COLLEGIAL" MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PARTIES IN THE ITALIAN SPECTRUM MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IF THEY WERE FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS. HIS STATEMENT WAS AN UNOFFICIAL REPLY TO REPUBLICAN LEADER LA MALFA'S CALL FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES TO DISCUSS ITS ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

EMBASSY ROME COMMENT: ANDREOTTI MAY FIND SUCH MEETINGS USEFUL FOR ADVANCING PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR THE PARTIES TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALLY. HE DREW A CAREFUL DISTINCTION, HOWEVER, BETWEEN SUCH A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND THE INSTITUTIONALIZED MULTI-PARTY

MEETINGS PROPOSED LAST OCTOBER BY COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF  
BERLINGUER, WHICH HE FIRMLY REJECTED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL  
USE) ROME 20864, 12/27.

4. SPAIN: CARRILLO CHARGED

EMBASSY MADRID REPORTS THAT THE PUBLIC ORDER TRIBUNAL HAS

FORMALLY CHARGED COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER CARRILLO AND  
SEVEN OF HIS COLLEAGUES WITH ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION.  
DEFENSE LAWYERS, INCLUDING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER  
RUIZ GIMENEZ, ARE APPEALING THE CHARGES ON THE BASIS THAT  
THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) IS NOT A PROSCRIBED  
ORGANIZATION WHICH IS "UNDER INTERNATIONAL DISCIPLINE AND  
ADVOCATES A TOTALITARIAN SYSTEM." ACCORDING TO PRESS  
REPORTS, THE PCE WILL STAGE A LARGE DEMONSTRATION DECEMBER  
30 TO DEMAND CARRILLO'S FREEDOM. (LIMITED OFFICIAL  
USE) MADRID 9667, 12/28.

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5. INDIA: AT LEAST THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME

EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPORTS THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN  
INDIA HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE RELATIVELY  
GOOD SHOWING OF THE ECONOMY DURING THE PAST EIGHTEEN  
MONTHS. THE BANNING OF STRIKES, INCREASED DISCIPLINE IN  
THE BUREAUCRACY, AND A CRACKDOWN ON THE BLACK MARKET  
ENABLED THE GOI TO CARRY OUT BADLY NEEDED ECONOMIC  
PROGRAMS. MANY OF THESE WERE BEGUN BEFORE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE EMERGENCY, BUT WITHOUT ITS TOUGH GOVERNMENT  
CONTROLS, POLITICAL REACTION MIGHT HAVE PROVED UNMANAGEABLE.  
THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS, HOWEVER, DO NOT RESULT FROM  
STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS, AND ARE DEPENDENT UPON CONTINUATION  
OF DISCIPLINARY CONTROLS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW  
DELHI 18564, 12/27.

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